

Sunday Worship

25 July 2021

English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum

ORGAN PRELUDE

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)
The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
(Psalm 145:13)

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(Verses from Psalm 51 – responses in bold-face italics)

Be merciful to me, O God,
because of your constant love.

***Because of your great mercy,
wash away my sins!***

Wash away all my evil
and make me clean from my sin!

Create a pure heart in me, O God,
and put a new and loyal spirit in me.
***Do not banish me from your presence;
do not take your holy spirit away from me.***

Give me the joy that comes from your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

Spare my life, O God, and save me,
and I will gladly proclaim your righteousness.

Help me to speak, Lord,
and I will praise you.

HYMN *There is a longing in our hearts* (Church Hymnary 720)

Refrain *There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.*

- 1 For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
- 2 For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
- 3 For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
- 4 Lord save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait: be near, hear our prayer, O God.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 (GNB Old Testament, page 307)

The following spring, at the time of the year when kings usually go to war, David sent out Joab with his officers and the Israelite army; they defeated the Ammonites and besieged the city of Rabbah. But David himself stayed in Jerusalem.

² One day, late in the afternoon, David got up from his nap and went to the palace roof. As he walked around up there, he saw a woman taking a bath in her house. She was very beautiful. ³ So he sent a messenger to find out who she was, and learned that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. ⁴ David sent messengers to get her; they brought her to him and he made love to her. (She had just finished her monthly ritual of purification.) Then she went back home. ⁵ Afterward she discovered that she was pregnant and sent a message to David to tell him.

⁶ David then sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah arrived, David asked him if Joab and the troops were well, and how the fighting was going. ⁸ Then he said to Uriah, "Go on home and rest a while." Uriah left, and David had a present sent to his home. ⁹ But Uriah did not go home; instead, he slept at the palace gate with the king's guards. ¹⁰ When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he asked him, "You have just returned after a long absence; why didn't you go home?"

¹¹ Uriah answered, "The men of Israel and Judah are away in battle, and the Covenant Box is with them; my commander Joab and his officers are

camping out in the open. How could I go home, eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? By all that's sacred, I swear that I could never do such a thing!"

¹² So David said, "Then stay here the rest of the day, and tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ David invited him to supper and got him drunk. But again that night Uriah did not go home; instead he slept on his blanket in the palace guardroom.

¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah. ¹⁵ He wrote: "Put Uriah in the front line, where the fighting is heaviest, then retreat and let him be killed."

RESPONSE The word of God: ***Thanks be to God!***

HYMN *Just as I am, without one plea* (Church Hymnary 553 1)

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you call us, 'Come to me',
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 4 Just as I am – your love unknown
has broken every barrier down –
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
her for a season, then above –
O Lamb of God, I come.

REFLECTION "It'll all come out in the wash" (Revd James Brown)

HYMN *There's a wideness* (Church Hymnary 187) Tune: *In Babilone* (CH4 604)

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are felt more than in God's heaven:
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.
- 2 For the love of God is broader than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his word;
and our lives be filled with glory from the glory of the Lord.

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray the Lord's Prayer in your preferred language / version.)

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

HYMN *The Church is wherever...* (Church Hymnary 522)

- 1 The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing they're wanted and loved by their Lord.
The Church is wherever Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.
- 2 The Church is wherever God's people are loving,
where all are forgiven and start once again,
where all are accepted, whatever their background,
whatever their past and whatever their pain.
- 3 The Church is wherever God's people are seeking
to reach out and touch folk wherever they are –
conveying the Gospel, its joy and its comfort,
to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire.
- 4 The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.
The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.

BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

NOTICES

- Welcome to today's **Sunday worship**. We are allowed to use the church for worship on condition that we observe the following Covid-19 prevention measures:
 - ▶ Please sit only where you see a white card marked "**Sitzplatz**". You may sit together with other members of your household, but please observe the statutory 1.5 metres distance otherwise.
 - ▶ Fill out the "Green Card" you were given as you entered church and give it to one of the stewards as you leave. This essential tracing information will be treated confidentially and destroyed after a period of four weeks.
 - ▶ Medical or FFP2 masks should be worn at all times while in church (including during congregational singing of hymns). *Thank you.*
- Please note that, due to Covid prevention measures in place, there is no offering during worship. There will be an **offering basket** as you leave church, however. Please give generously to support the ongoing work of our congregation.
- Our worship will be **streamed live** on our website for those who prefer not to attend in person or are unable to do so. A link for the livestream can be found on our website (www.ecc-bochum.de). To help the IT team, please share your feedback and suggestions via Pastor Jimmy. *A warm welcome to all virtual worshippers!*
- Our **six-week vacation Bible study Take a Break** exploring rest, recreation and leisure continues on **Tuesday, 27 July** at 7.30 p.m. (19.30 hrs) with a session on Gardening. Aptly, the venue is Dirk & Sylke's *Naturgarten*, Umlandstraße 15a (follow the sign and the ribbons along the path to the left just beyond the bridge).
- **Reading the Bible together** through 2021 continues, supported in a Zoom group. Contact Sebastian Stüwe on 0176 76496321 or [sebastian.stuewe\(at\)mailbox.org](mailto:sebastian.stuewe(at)mailbox.org)
- This week's **WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** focuses on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/burundi-democratic-republic-of-congo-rwanda>
- **Online worship resources** by various churches, including the UCC, the Church of Scotland and others, are on our website at: <http://ecc-bochum.de/online-resources/>

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CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

A Psalm of David

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Psalm 51:1-13

G S A E F B U F X L N B M U U
L J D P Z H I P E A O I A E N
W I Z U G P Y T W U U B H I F
H C V R A U A M T N P N C A A
F A C E E E W E W A T O A E I
F Y S W R I C O V Q Y O T H L
K M M C D H D W H I T E R G I
O E D G B S M C W U L J W S N
Y R C C F T X B K J Z O S R G
Y C D L O A U V Q R N T P X N
Z Y X E X E F G U S M H F Y A
M O N A H E A R T M G R E A T
K T Y N E O X F S P I R I T D
M S S S H F W A S H C P D B P
F W Z E L O V E X E C E F K S

UNFAILING	WHITER	HIDE	SNOW	MERCY
WASH	CREATE	EVIL	SPIRIT	FACE
LOVE	CLEANSE	PURE	HEART	GREAT

The words in the box from Psalm 51 (A Prayer of David) are all hidden in the letter square. Can you find them all?

More children's resources at: <https://sermons4kids.com/>